

4/15

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER


upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1954



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HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Health Committee

Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. BROWN

Vice-Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN LADY D. SHEPPERSON

County Aldermen :

M. J. Allen	A Crane
C. G. Argles	F. W. Figg
C. H. Chandler	G. P. Radford

County Councillors :

Mrs. M. K. Abrahams	Lord Hemingford
W. P. Anderson	E. G. Holmes
B. S. Bye	T. E. R. Parsons
G. A. Earl	H. J. Poulter
Mrs. S. Evans	Rev. M. H. Wells
Rev. E. I. Evans	H. Wicks
G. E. Fuller	C. J. Wiles
W. H. Gotobed	

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. D. R. Allan	Mrs. D. L. Pledger
Mrs. V. E. Compton	Dr. A. E. Staffurth
Dr. E. R. Dansie	Mrs. V. J. Staffurth
Mrs. D. J. Ditchburn	H. Street
Mrs. K. W. Jeffreys	Miss E. Tillard
Mrs. Magee	

WHOLETIME STAFF

County Medical Officer of Health:

D. S. Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers:

(Mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)

Jean D. McKellar, M.B., B.S. (Durham). (Commenced 19th July, 1954).

Audrey B. Morrison, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 3rd July, 1954).

Lilian E. Phillips, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time)

Assistant County Medical Officers:

(Child welfare, school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts.

James Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.
(Commenced 14th June, 1954).

Mary M. Markham, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.P.H.
(Resigned 30th April, 1954).

Francis D. F. Steede, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chest Physicians (part-time)

C. E. P. Downes, M.R.C.P.

C. G. Royce, B.S., M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Dental Officer:

(Schools and maternity and child welfare services)

W. R. S. Robertson, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.)

Inspector under Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders:

Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time)

Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act:

A. E. James

Ambulance Officer:

A. Easton

Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Health Visitor:

Miss A. Garner

Orthopaedic Physiotherapist :

Mrs. B. W. Perkins (Resigned 3rd October, 1954).

Domestic Help Organiser :

Mrs. B. A. Meadows

Welfare Officer for the Care of the Unmarried Mother :

Miss E. Walkley

Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

J. B. Ashwell

Deputy Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

H. H. Adams (Resigned 30th April, 1954).

G. Fordham (Commenced 16th June, 1954).

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives :

Miss O. K. Ivimey

Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives :

Miss L. E. Roberts

Health Visitors :

Miss M. S. Balfour

Miss J. Bassford

Miss I. L. Bays

Miss O. Evans

Miss H. Hardin

Miss M. B. Lovatt

Miss E. Pelbrough

Miss H. L. Cornwall
(Commenced 1st July, 1954).

Miss A. Boyd (Commenced on temporary basis 1st July, 1954).

Mrs. E. C. Archer (Retired 14th June, 1954).

Chief Clerk :

R. E. Killick

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Huntingdonshire County Council.*

Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the County for the year ended the 31st December, 1954.

Appreciable changes were seen in the medical staff during the year. Dr. Audrey B. Morrison and Dr. Mary M. Markham resigned and their respective posts were filled by the appointment of Dr. Jean D. McKellar and Dr. James Caldwell, both of whom joined the staff in July.

Mrs. B. W. Perkins, the Physiotherapist, resigned on the 3rd of October and this post was unfortunately still vacant at the end of the year. The position in regard to Health Visiting staff was however easier for although Mrs. E. C. Archer retired in June, after many years service with this Authority, two additions were made to the staff the following month.

Among the many interesting points contained in the summary of the Registrar General's Report on the Census of 1951 is the fact that during the intercensal period between 1931 and 1951 the population of Huntingdonshire increased by 23.3 per cent. as compared with an increase of 9.5 per cent. in England and Wales. This expansion of the population was for the most part due to immigration; of the total number of persons enumerated in the County only 47.3 per cent. were born in Huntingdonshire.

The Birth Rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of the population for 1954 shows a decrease as compared with the rate for the previous year, but still remains in excess of the Birth Rate for England and Wales.

The Death Rate shows a slight increase on the previous year's figure. In connection with the causes of deaths comparison is made, in the body of the report, between the number of deaths from tuberculosis and those due to motor accidents. It is apparent that Tuberculosis has lost a good deal of its former importance as a "Killer" disease.

The combined Midwifery and Home Nursing Service functioned very satisfactorily throughout the year, although subjected to increased pressure of work as a result of the increased population

and to some extent, the increased antibiotic and other treatments given by injection.

A revision of the nursing establishment will undoubtedly become necessary in the near future.

The attendance of the Health Visitor at the ante-natal clinics and her participation along with the midwife in giving instruction to the expectant mothers has ensured continuity in the care of the mother and the child, brought midwife and health visitor into closer contact with one another, and both of them into contact with the general practitioner obstetricians of the locality and will, it is hoped, result in closer co-operation among this team of workers.

The scheme for the Distribution of Welfare Foods, an entirely new service, for which the County Council became responsible towards the end of June worked smoothly and efficiently from the start.

A particularly pleasing feature and one worthy of comment is the increase in the response to prophylactic treatment. The numbers of those vaccinated and immunised against Diphtheria both show a substantial increase as compared with the previous year's figures. Nevertheless a warning against the adoption of an attitude of complacency is fully justified.

Throughout the year voluntary bodies and individuals have continued to give valuable assistance and to them I express my thanks.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their assistance and support during the year, and to place on record my appreciation of the work undertaken by the professional and lay members of my staff.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

County Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	233,985
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1954) ...	72,800

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
BIRTHS—			
Live Births—			
Legitimate	616	528	1,144
Illegitimate	31	29	60
Total Births	647	557	1,204
Birth rate per 1,000 population			16.5
Still Births			24
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births			19.5
DEATHS—			
Deaths from all causes			831
Death rate (Crude) in—			
Urban Districts			14.2
Rural Districts			9.3
County of Huntingdon			11.4
England and Wales			11.3
Maternal Deaths—			
From pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			1
Infant Deaths—			
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—			
Legitimate			28.8
Illegitimate			50.0
Total death rate			29.9

Population

The statistics issued by the Registrar General for 1954 comprise figures relating to resident civilians and members of the armed forces stationed in the area. The population figures thus obtained are referred to as "home populations". The estimated home populations of the County Districts at the 30th June, 1954, were as follows :—

Administrative County	...	...	...	...	72,800
Urban Districts	...	...	...	...	31,300
Huntingdon M.B.	...	...	...	...	5,510
Godmanchester M.B.	...	...	...	...	2,420
St. Ives M.B.	...	...	...	...	3,300
St. Neots	...	...	...	...	5,140
Ramsey	...	...	...	...	5,690
Old Fletton	...	...	...	...	9,240
Rural Districts	...	...	...	...	41,500
Huntingdon	...	...	...	...	10,300
St. Ives	...	...	...	...	14,680
St. Neots	...	...	...	...	7,750
Norman Cross	...	...	...	...	8,770

The mid-1954 population of the County as estimated by the Registrar General at 72,800 shows a net increase of 2,120 as compared with the estimated population in the previous year, 1953.

The natural increase in the population, that is to say the excess of live births over deaths, was 373 in 1954. This is lower than in 1953, when the figure was 451, but is comparable to those for 1950-1952.

1954	...	373
1953	...	451
1952	...	360
1951	...	369
1950	...	362

The Registrar General's Report on the Census of 1951 was received during the year and set out below is a Summary of the Report so far as it relates to the population of Huntingdonshire.

Population and Intercensal Changes

The total population in Huntingdonshire enumerated at the 1951 Census amounted to 69,302, an increase of 13,096 or 23.3 per cent. as compared with the 1931 Census figures.

This increase of 23.3 per cent. in the population of Huntingdonshire during the intercensal period considerably exceeded the 9.5 per cent. increase in the population in England and Wales during the same period and represented an appreciably higher rate of increase than was recorded in the County in the previous intercensal period 1921-1931 which amounted to 2.7 per cent.

During the 100 years between 1851-1951 the population of England and Wales showed a rise of 144 per cent. whereas in contrast the increase in the population in Huntingdonshire amounted to only 8 per cent.

Considerable variations in the population figures occurred during the years 1931-1951. This intercensal period may be regarded as falling into four distinct parts.

In the first part, the pre-war period 1931-1939, the Huntingdonshire population increased by about 1,000.

The second part, between mid-1939 and mid-1941, which period covered the main incidence of heavy air attacks, as well as the call-up of men into the Armed Forces, showed the population increased by about 10,000.

The third period, from 1941-1948, covered the remainder of the war years, during which people became more accustomed to war-time conditions and moved about to a smaller extent, and the three years following the end of the war, during which a large part of the shift back to the peace-time pattern was achieved. During this period there was a steady reduction in the population from 67,000 to 61,000.

The last period, 1948-1951, covered the return to more normal conditions. This is too short a period to provide any reliable indication as to the rates of population change, although it seems that the trend is not conforming to the pre-war pattern in that Huntingdonshire increased its population at a faster rate than before 1939.

The population in 1948 was 66,000 whereas in 1951 it was 69,302.

In Huntingdonshire the average annual rate of natural increase amounted to 4.3 per 1,000 which was almost the same as that for England and Wales.

(See Table A)

Dwellings

In 1951 the dwellings in the occupation of private households and vacant in Huntingdonshire numbered 19,654, which represented an increase of 23.9 per cent. The proportion of dwellings with 4 or 5 rooms increased substantially between 1931 and 1951, largely as a result of new building, while the proportion of larger dwellings (6 rooms or more) decreased during the same period. There was comparatively little change in the proportion of dwellings of 1—3 rooms. The changes in this period were broadly in the same direction as those which took place between 1921 and 1931.

The number of dwellings occupied by one private household only numbered 18,553, whereas dwellings occupied by two private households were 337 and by three private households—14.

(See Tables A and B)

Private Households

The average number of persons per private household in Huntingdonshire in 1951 was 3.59. The percentage of persons living at densities of over two persons per room declined between 1931 and 1951 from 2.58 to 1.61. Districts in the County which were in excess of this average were Ramsey (3.92), Norman Cross (2.53) and Huntingdon Rural (1.65).

10,489 households of five persons or less were living at a density of one person or less per room.

(See Tables A, B and C)

Household Arrangements

Of the 19,262 private households, some 6,732 or 35 per cent. had the exclusive use of all five of the household arrangements covered by the census questions (piped water, cooking stove, kitchen sink, watercloset and fixed bath), while a further 10 per cent. had the use of all except a fixed bath.

Birth Place and Nationality

Of the residents in Huntingdonshire only 47.3 per cent. of the persons enumerated were born in Huntingdonshire, thus illustrating the expansion of the population by immigration. The proportion of the Huntingdonshire population born in England but outside the County was 43.2 per cent. of which 6.4 per cent. were born in Cambridgeshire or the Isle of Ely, 8.5 per cent. in Northamptonshire and 7.3 per cent. in the Counties of London, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey. Aliens accounted for 4.6 per cent. of the total population in the County.

Sex, Age and Population Composition

One of the main factors which determined the age pattern of the 1951 population was the decline in fertility which has been apparent since the end of the last century. The numbers in the middle age-groups, survivors of a period when annual births were more numerous, tend to be larger than the numbers in the younger age-groups. This is a feature of a population which has been ageing and applies generally throughout the country and is not peculiar to this County.

The proportion of children under age 15 in Huntingdonshire amounted to 22.4 per cent. In Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts the proportion amounted to 22.1 per cent. and in Rural Districts 22.6 per cent. In the Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts the proportion of children under age 15 varied between the high figure of 25.1 per cent. in Ramsey U.D. and 24.0 per cent. in Godmanchester M.B., and the low figure of 20.7 in St. Ives M.B.

In the County as a whole the proportion of persons aged 65 and over was 11.1 per cent. In the Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts the figure was 11.6 per cent. and in the Rural Districts 10.8 per cent. The distribution of the people in the age-group 65 years and over varied from the high figure of 14.3 per cent. in St. Ives M.B. and the low figure of 9.4 per cent. in Old Fletton U.D.

66.5 per cent. of the population came within the working age range of 15—64 years, the highest proportion being in Old Fletton U.D.

The population in the aggregate of Rural Districts in Huntingdonshire, where over 10 per cent. of the population were enumerated in Defence Establishments, was distinctly young (69.3 per cent. of persons were aged 45 or under).

Of the total population of 69,302 in Huntingdonshire 35,965 were males and 33,337 females, which represents a sex ratio of 927 females per 1,000 males. In all age-groups up to and including 45—49 years quinary there was a preponderance of males, but from and including the age quinary 50—54 years and upwards females were in excess of males.

High sex ratios were apparent in St. Ives M.B. (1,117 females per 1,000 males) and St. Neots U.D. (1,114 females per 1,000 males). In both areas this is associated with a high proportion of old people and reflects the greater longevity of women. The aggregate of Rural Districts in Huntingdonshire had the very low proportion of 860 females per 1,000 males, largely on account of the high proportion of males enumerated in Defence Establishments and in hostels. Old Fletton U.D. had only 908 females per 1,000 males, this being associated with a high proportion of male industrial workers and a low proportion of old people.

Attendance at Educational Establishments

Persons of all ages in full-time attendance at educational establishments formed 14.3 per cent. of the total population.

Social Class

The social class analysis as set out in Table 4 is presented in five groups broadly classified as follows:—

Class I	Professional, etc., occupations.
Class II	Intermediate occupations.
Class III	Skilled occupations.
Class IV	Partly skilled occupations.
Class V	Unskilled occupations.

TABLE A ACREAGE, POPULATION, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS

Administrative Area	Acreage (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION					PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS, 1951.					
		1931	1951				Private Households	Population in Private Households	Structurally Separate Dwellings	Rooms Occupied	Density of Occupation	
			Persons	Persons	Males	Females					Persons per Acre	Persons per Room	Percentage of Persons at more than 2 per Room
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	233985	56206	69302	35965	33337	0.3	19293	62544	18910	92895	0.67	1.6
Total of Municipal Boroughs & Urban Districts	29782	26193	30288	14988	15300	1.0	8962	29236	8728	43210	0.68	1.6
Total of Rural Districts	204203	30013	39014	20977	18037	0.2	10331	33308	10182	49685	0.67	1.7
Godmanchester M.B.	4907	1993	2502	1204	1298	0.5	753	2421	739	3594	0.67	0.2
Huntingdon M.B.	2150	4649	5282	2529	2753	2.5	1541	4905	1481	7420	0.66	1.2
Old Fletton U.D.	3029	7481	8956	4694	4262	3.0	2500	8512	2443	12344	0.69	1.4
Ramsey U.D. ...	15980	5092	5770	2884	2886	0.4	1694	5759	1657	7936	0.73	3.9
St. Ives M.B. ...	2326	2664	3078	1454	1624	1.3	1013	3053	985	4833	0.63	0.8
St. Neots U.D. ...	1390	4314	4700	2223	2477	3.4	1461	4586	1423	7083	0.65	0.5
Huntingdon R.D.	69937	7118	8610	4420	4190	0.12	2442	7937	2425	11777	0.67	1.6
Norman Cross R.D.	35795	6901	8818	4742	4076	0.25	2364	8077	2301	11200	0.72	2.5
St. Ives R.D. ...	45912	9526	14060	7986	6074	0.31	3379	10638	3337	16303	0.65	1.5
St. Neots R.D. ...	52559	6468	7526	3829	3697	0.14	2146	6656	2119	10405	0.64	0.9

TABLE B DWELLINGS, ROOMS AND HOUSEHOLDS

	STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS										NUMBER OF ROOMS		
	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	8 or 9 Rooms	10 or more Rooms	All sizes	Vacant		Total
											Furnished	Others	
Dwellings Occupied by													
1 Private Household(s)	161	561	1526	4557	7241	2939	834	548	186	18553	90443	28	90523
2 "	—	—	3	19	92	85	51	55	32	337	2258	3	2263
3 "	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	1	3	14	110	—	110
4 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	84	—	89
5 or more "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Dwellings Occupied	161	561	1529	4576	7334	3025	893	607	224	18910	92895	31	92985
Dwellings — furnished	2	22	36	97	94	22	6	11	5	295	—	—	1335
wholly vacant — others	5	26	91	127	132	33	12	9	14	449	—	2082	2082
Total Dwellings occupied and vacant	168	609	1656	4800	7560	3080	911	627	243	19654	92895	2113	96402
Number of Private Households therein	161	561	1532	4595	7428	3112	960	673	271	19293			

Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... 108

N.B. The above table includes (a) 31 houseboats comprising 70 rooms occupied by 31 households.
 (b) 132 caravans comprising 169 rooms occupied by 132 households.

TABLE C

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE. ROOMS OCCUPIED AND DENSITY OF OCCUPATION

Number of Persons in Household	Number of Households occupying the following number of Rooms										Total Households	'Total Persons in Households	Total Rooms Occupied	Average Number of Persons per Room
	Number of Households occupying the following number of Rooms													
	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	8 or 9 Rooms	10 or more Rooms					
<i>Households in all Dwellings.</i>														
1	93	239	285	627	436	159	48	28	6	1921	1921	7701	0.25	
2	65	313	546	1543	1691	753	207	126	39	5283	10566	24448	0.43	
3	27	193	474	1215	1908	729	193	117	38	4894	14682	23355	0.63	
4	15	55	278	753	1639	631	175	105	40	3691	14764	18512	0.80	
5	7	16	91	312	860	350	102	78	31	1847	9235	9693	0.95	
6	4	6	36	140	407	194	56	49	20	912	5472	4923	1.11	
7	1	2	9	48	189	88	32	28	7	404	2828	2247	1.26	
8	—	3	5	20	82	30	12	9	5	166	1328	914	1.45	
9	1	1	—	13	41	23	5	7	1	92	828	502	1.65	
10	—	1	1	9	18	6	3	3	2	43	430	240	1.79	
11	—	—	—	—	7	5	2	2	—	16	176	96	1.83	
12	—	—	—	—	7	1	3	—	—	11	132	62	2.13	
13 or more	—	—	—	1	4	5	—	—	3	13	182	118	1.54	
Total Households	213	829	1725	4681	7289	2974	838	552	192	19293	—	—	—	
Total Persons	439	1837	4695	13489	25583	10549	3040	2118	794	—	62544	—	0.67	
Rooms Occupied	213	1658	5175	18724	36445	17844	5866	4587	2299	—	—	92811	—	
Distribution per 1,000 households by rooms 1951	11	43	89	243	378	154	43	29	10	1000	—	—	—	
occupied 1931	3	42	84	254	283	178	63	58	35	1000	—	—	—	
<i>Households in Shared Dwellings.</i>														
Total Households	52	268	200	128	55	45	7	10	7	772	—	—	—	
Total Persons	93	617	488	351	177	147	29	43	24	—	1969	—	0.79	
Rooms Occupied	52	536	600	512	275	270	49	84	104	—	—	2482	—	

TABLE D

SOCIAL CLASS DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPIED AND RETIRED MALES AGED 15 AND OVER

Administrative Area	Total Males (Occupied & Retired) Aged 15 & over	SOCIAL CLASS					Proportions per 1,000 total				
		I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV	V
Huntingdonshire	27015	854	4260	12515	5942	3444	32	158	463	220	127
Municipal Boroughs and Districts	11165	271	1767	5554	2017	1556	24	158	498	181	139
Godmanchester M.B.	873	40	130	412	165	126	46	149	472	189	144
Huntingdon M.B.	1885	73	309	958	295	250	39	164	508	156	133
Old Fletton	3604	25	362	2070	550	597	7	100	574	153	166
Ramsey	2060	34	520	694	632	180	17	252	337	307	87
St. Ives M.B.	1092	48	219	584	120	121	44	201	534	110	111
St. Neots	1651	51	227	836	255	282	31	137	507	154	171
Rural Districts	15850	583	2493	6961	3925	1888	37	157	439	248	119
Huntingdon	3297	117	524	1313	1054	289	35	159	398	320	88
Norman Cross	3620	65	492	1217	822	1024	18	136	336	227	283
St. Ives	6312	332	956	3581	1131	312	53	151	568	179	49
St. Neots	2621	69	521	850	918	263	26	199	324	351	100

TABLE E

ACREAGE AND POPULATION

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA	Acreage (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION			
		1931	1951		
		Persons	Persons	Males	Females
Huntingdonshire	233985	56206	69302	35965	33337
Total of Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts...	29782	26193	30288	14988	15300
Total of Rural Districts	204203	30013	39014	20977	18037
Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts:					
Godmanchester M.B. ...	4907	1993	2502	1204	1298
Huntingdon M.B. ...	2150	4649	5282	2529	2753
Old Fletton U.D. ...	3029	7481	8956	4694	4262
Fletton Civil Parish ...	758	2935	2966	1444	1522
Stanground „ „	1287	2125	3190	1640	1550
Woodston „ „	984	2421	2800	1610	1190
Ramsey U.D.	15980	5092	5770	2884	2886
St. Ives M.B.	2326	2664	3078	1454	1624
St. Neots U.D.... ..	1390	4314	4700	2223	2477
Eynesbury	394	1296	1348	660	688
St. Neots	996	3018	3352	1563	1789
Rural Districts:					
Huntingdon R.D. ...	69937	7118	8610	4420	4190
Abbots Ripton... ..	4191	343	357	176	181
Alconbury	3797	492	733	350	383
Alconbury Weston ...	1735	276	254	130	124
Barham and Woolley	1890	63	72	41	31
Brampton	3557	1031	1718	950	768
Brington & Molesworth	2842	189	285	134	151
Buckworth	2023	112	105	52	53
Bythorn and Keyston	4261	280	268	141	127
Conington	3175	245	348	183	165
Easton	1353	88	89	49	40
Ellington	2700	217	228	115	113
Great Gidding	2348	274	252	119	133
Hamerton	2184	121	141	70	71
Kings Ripton	1360	117	127	65	62
Leighton	3128	218	222	114	108
Little Gidding	724	42	28	14	14
Old Weston	2051	168	201	102	99
Sawtry	6273	915	1113	553	560
Spaldwick	1552	242	284	139	145
Steeple Gidding	1102	59	57	28	29
The Stukeleys	4241	467	612	319	293
Upton & Coppingford...	2045	138	142	73	69
Upwood & The Raveleys	4673	535	569	290	279
Winwick	1781	124	128	65	63
Wood Walton	4951	362	277	148	129

TABLE E (*cont.*)

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA	Acreage (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION			
		1931	1951		
		Persons	Persons	Males	Females
Norman Cross R.D. ...	35795	6901	8818	4742	4076
Alwalton	974	201	199	90	109
Chesterton	1349	100	167	90	77
Denton & Caldecote ...	1826	103	108	57	51
Elton	3758	551	980	657	323
Farcet	4572	1304	1268	617	651
Folksworth & Washingley	2191	190	209	106	103
Glatton	2176	155	136	70	66
Haddon... ..	1224	114	88	42	46
Holme	4333	559	531	282	249
Morborne	1205	58	54	26	28
Orton Longueville ...	2409	250	550	266	284
Orton Waterville ...	1400	315	334	161	173
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	1542	495	682	333	349
Stilton	1638	494	672	347	325
Water Newton	883	78	79	41	38
Yaxley	4315	1934	2761	1557	1204
St. Ives R.D.	45912	9526	14060	7986	6074
Bluntisham	2382	*	499	243	256
Broughton	2372	261	266	137	129
Bury	1446	303	2064	1512	552
Colne	1753	369	424	204	220
Earith	1072	*	634	314	320
Fenstanton	2581	771	972	468	504
Hemingford Abbots ...	2421	296	348	164	184
Hemingford Grey ...	1849	688	939	446	493
Hilton	1326	280	315	149	166
Holywell-cum-Needing- worth	2911	520	684	335	349
Houghton & Wyton ...	3788	783	2437	1799	638
Old Hurst	1077	89	267	130	137
Pidley-cum-Fenton ...	3697	398	399	207	192
Somersham	4516	1417	1317	640	677
Warboys	8490	1750	1909	930	979
Wistow	2408	345	353	185	168
Woodhurst	1823	248	233	123	110
St. Neots R.D.	52559	6468	7526	3829	3697
Abbotsley	1723	263	283	134	149
Buckden	3114	1037	1057	527	530
Catworth	3094	318	273	151	122
Covington	1294	82	90	49	41
Diddington	1298	172	668	407	261
Eynesbury Hardwicke	2649	139	117	63	54
Grafham	1927	200	201	100	101
Great Gransden ...	3402	395	396	187	209

TABLE E (*cont.*)

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA	Acreage (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION			
		1931	1951		
		Persons	Persons	Males	Females
Great Paxton	1407	292	362	180	182
Great Staughton	6407	651	875	472	403
Hail Weston	1590	236	282	143	139
Kimbolton	5140	699	845	399	446
Little Paxton	1522	229	291	131	160
Offord Cluny	1062	217	242	116	126
Offord Darcy	1866	291	295	152	143
St. Neots Rural	2699	68	72	41	31
Southoe & Midloe	2380	251	267	134	133
Stow	844	90	84	44	40
Tetworth	2236	131	107	50	57
Tilbrook	1683	202	208	103	105
Toseland	1342	145	121	60	61
Waresley	2032	167	170	75	95
Yelling	1848	193	220	111	109

* 1931 figures are not available for these areas.

Births

Live births registered during the year amounted to 1,204 of which 647 were males and 557 females. This is equivalent to a Live Birth Rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. When compared with the previous year's rate of 17.18 the present year's birth rate shows a slight reduction, but despite this compares favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales of 15.2 per 1,000 during the same period.

Still births registered during 1954 numbered 24 giving a Still Birth Rate of 19.5 per 1,000 total births and compared with the corresponding rate in 1953 of 25.68 shows a satisfactory decrease.

The total number of illegitimate births numbered 60 which varies but little when compared with 61—the corresponding number in 1953.

Deaths

During 1954 831 deaths were registered as compared with 763 in 1953.

The crude death rate amounted to 11.4 as compared with 10.8 in the previous year. The crude death rate for Huntingdonshire in 1954 is almost the same as the death rate for England and Wales of 11.3.

The infant mortality rate for the current year of 29.9 per 1,000 live births shows an increase when compared with 22.4 in 1953. An outbreak of a virulent type of haemolytic streptococcal infection in the summer of 1954 partly accounted for this rise. It must be borne in mind, however, that when dealing with small numbers calculated rates can be somewhat misleading and that had these deaths occurred in a highly populated area there would not have been such a marked increase in the rate per 1,000.

Scrutiny of Table 2 in which an analysis of the causes of death appears calls for comment on two points. First the deaths from Tuberculosis—the total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 3. This figure is most encouraging as in 1953 the figure was 7 and it was then the lowest figure ever recorded in the County.

The other item is the number of deaths from motor car accidents—13 for 1954. It is interesting to compare the figures for deaths from tuberculosis and motor accidents for the last five years.

	Tuberculosis	Motor Accidents
1950	13	13
1951	17	8
1952	9	14
1953	7	8
1954	3	13

It is disturbing to find that of the 13 deaths from motor accidents 8 of these were in the 18—25 age-group; more so when the total number of deaths registered in that age-group was only 13.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts and of England and Wales for the past five years :—

TABLE 1

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Urban Districts ...	15.4	16.7	15.3	17.0	17.0	11.5	12.0	11.8	12.7	14.2
Rural Districts ...	17.4	16.8	17.0	17.3	16.2	11.2	11.3	10.3	9.3	9.3
County of Huntingdon	16.6	16.8	16.2	17.2	16.5	11.3	11.6	11.0	10.8	11.4
England and Wales .	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3

TABLE

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE							
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	7	6	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	8	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	—	—	—	4	6	2	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	1	1	1	5	25	20	32
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	—	—	—	—	1	15	27	78
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	1	24	32	42
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	10
20. Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	1	1	10	32	116
21. Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	15
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	8
23. Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	2	7	7	7
24. Bronchitis	1	1	—	—	1	5	6	12
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	7
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	10	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	18	1	1	—	3	8	14	41
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—	8	3	2	—	—
34. All other Accidents	1	—	1	2	1	2	1	6
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	3	7	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ALL CAUSES	36	3	5	13	34	142	200	398

DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1954

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon Borough	Godmanchester Borough	St. Ives Borough	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton U.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
20	2	1	—	1	2	4	1	4	1	4
17	3	—	—	1	2	2	1	5	2	1
14	3	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	2	3
6	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
85	17	4	7	9	5	10	10	14	5	4
2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
6	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2
121	20	3	9	6	10	10	16	16	17	14
99	9	5	4	1	7	18	8	25	8	14
21	3	—	—	1	5	4	3	3	1	1
160	34	7	7	7	7	27	16	21	16	18
29	6	—	2	3	5	3	3	2	3	2
13	2	—	—	9	—	—	2	—	—	—
25	5	—	—	—	1	5	3	6	4	1
26	3	1	1	3	3	2	4	4	2	3
7	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
5	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
7	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	1
15	2	—	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
13	1	1	1	2	—	1	3	4	—	—
86	12	4	6	11	5	11	8	10	12	7
13	2	—	—	—	1	2	5	1	—	2
14	1	2	2	—	1	1	1	4	2	—
12	—	1	1	—	2	6	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
831	132	32	42	62	60	117	93	129	83	81

TABLE 3

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954
Urban and Rural Districts

District	Area in acres	Persons per acre	Population	Live Births				Deaths				Deaths under 1 year of age		Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death Rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Birth Rate	No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Death Rate	No.	Rate per 1,000 reg'd births		
URBAN: Huntingdon Boro' Godmanchester Boro' St. Ives Borough ... St. Neots Urban ... Ramsey Urban ... Old Fletton Urban	2151	2.6	5510	92	16.7	1.03	17.2	132	24.0	0.80	19.2	2	21.7	0.18	0.18
	4907	0.5	2420	45	18.6	1.03	19.2	32	13.2	0.89	11.7	3	66.7	—	—
	2326	1.4	3300	57	17.3	1.02	17.6	42	12.7	0.82	10.4	2	35.1	—	—
	1390	3.7	5140	88	17.1	1.05	18.0	62	12.1	0.83	10.0	3	34.1	—	—
	15980	0.4	5690	108	19.0	1.01	19.2	60	10.5	1.02	10.7	2	18.5	—	—
	3029	3.1	9240	142	15.4	1.06	16.3	117	12.7	1.08	13.7	2	14.1	—	—
Totals for Urban Dist's		1.1	31300	532	17.0	1.04	17.7	445	14.2	0.92	13.1	14	26.3	0.03	0.03
RURAL: Huntingdon ... St. Ives ... St. Neots ... Norman Cross ...	69937	0.1	10300	225	21.8	1.20	26.2	93	9.0	1.10	9.9	11	48.9	0.10	0.10
	45911	0.3	14 80	211	14.4	1.13	16.3	129	8.9	1.07	9.5	5	23.7	—	—
	52559	0.1	7750	130	16.8	1.13	19.0	83	10.7	0.84	9.0	3	23.1	—	—
	35795	0.2	8770	106	12.1	1.07	12.9	81	9.2	1.11	10.2	3	28.3	—	—
Totals for Rural Dist's		0.2	41500	672	16.2	1.09	17.7	386	9.3	1.00	9.3	22	32.7	—	0.02
Administrative County		0.3	72800	1204	16.5	1.07	17.7	831	11.4	0.96	10.9	36	23.9	0.01	0.03
England and Wales					15.2				11.3				25.5	0.16	

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(Section 22)

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

The arrangements for ante-natal and post-natal care within the County remain unchanged. Seven ante-natal and post-natal clinics function in the area, five of which are provided by the Local Health Authority and the remaining two by the R.A.F. Medical Service.

The clinics at St. Ives, Ramsey and Huntingdon are staffed by local general practitioners assisted by the Local Health Authority's Health Visitors and Midwives. The clinics at Old Fletton and St. Neots are Health Visitors' and Midwives' clinics only. The R.A.F. clinics are attended by the Service Medical Officer assisted by the Local Health Authority's midwives and health visiting staff.

1,419 attendances were made at the ante-natal clinics by 450 expectant mothers during 1954, the average visits per patient numbering 3.4. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 1,514 attendances by 508 expectant mothers which averaged approximately three visits per patient. The slight drop in the number of patients seen is probably due to the increased number of hospital bookings.

Almost twice as many patients attended for post-natal examinations in 1954 as compared with 1953, the respective figures being 104 and 55. The importance of the post-natal examination continues to be stressed and it would appear that the value of this examination is becoming apparent to those concerned.

At all clinics general health education is given and the instruction is shared by the Health Visitor and the Midwife. The midwife instructs and supervises the patients in simple breathing and relaxation exercises, and takes the opportunity to introduce and explain the use and purpose of the Gas and Air apparatus. Each expectant mother is given the opportunity to try out the apparatus before she goes into labour. The Health Visitor undertakes instruction in Mothercraft and gives information on social matters.

The facilities for the care of the unmarried mother under Ministry of Health Circular 2866 remain unchanged as in former years.

Maternity Outfits issued to domiciliary midwifery cases in 1954 numbered 487.

Examinations by general practitioner obstetricians of cases undertaken by midwives were as follows:—

Ante-natal examinations	...	...	...	...	61
Post-natal examinations	...	...	...	...	22

TABLE 4
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

	Number of clinics provided at end of year	Number of sessions held per month		Number of women in attendance		Total number of attendances during the year	
		Medical Officers Sessions	Mid- wives Sessions	Number of women who attended during the year	Number of new cases included in last column	Medical Officers, Sessions	Midwives, Sessions
Local Health Authority clinics :							
Ante-natal	5	10	6	390	314	749	455
Post-natal	—	—	—	82	82	94	2
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations :							
Ante-natal	2	1	3	60	44	145	70
Post-natal	—	—	—	22	22	22	—

Infant Welfare Centres

20 Infant Welfare Centres are held in various key points in the County. 17 of these are County Council Clinics, the remaining three consisting of 2 R.A.F. Clinics and a Voluntary Clinic.

The total attendances at the Clinics was 11,174 compared with 11,273 in 1953. The number of infants under the age of one year attending in 1954 was 6,818, the figures being only slightly increased from that of 1953 when it was 6,467. In the toddler group there was a slight fall in attendance, the number being 4,359 this year compared with 4,806 in the previous year.

At some of the smaller clinics the attendances were lower than in 1953, this in all probability was due to the closure to squatters of nearby redundant Service Camps. These Clinics were opened to provide for the needs of the people on these sites and did at one time serve a very useful purpose.

At the three largest clinics run by the County Council, namely St. Ives, Huntingdon and St. Neots, the figures are stationary. At the latter two clinics the buildings leave much to be desired. Education in general hygiene is a most important part of the work of Infant Welfare Centres and a clinic should exemplify the fundamental rules of health. New premises are required at both St. Neots and Huntingdon.

At some of the rural clinics the poor heating in the winter months makes it inadvisable at times to undress the very young babies.

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Premature Infants

Number of Premature Live Births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	45
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	...	17
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	—
						Total	62

Number of Premature Still-Births notified (as adjusted by
transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/>
Total							...
							<hr/> 8

The County continues to provide facilities for rearing premature infants. Special cots and oxygen apparatus are available for use when the infant is delivered at home. 62 premature infants were notified in 1954, that is babies weighing 5 lbs. 8 ozs. or under at birth. 52 of these babies were alive at the end of 28 days. By far the greatest mortality is in those whose birth weight is 3 lbs. 4 ozs. or under; and of the 11 born only 3 survived the first four weeks. Taking this group out of the 62 premature births in the year the results are satisfactory—only two premature infants failed to live.

TABLE 6

Weight at Birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS					
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there.			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in hos-pital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days			
3 lb. 4 oz. or less	9	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. ...	9	—	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. ...	6	—	6	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	21	—	21	10	—	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	45	3	38	13	1	11	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1

Dental Care

The Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“Dental treatment for nursing and expectant mothers was given to all mothers accepting treatment, but the numbers continue to decrease.

“Those mothers examined were found to be in better dental health than in previous years. This, in my opinion, is due to the introduction of the National Health Service.

“Pre-school examinations remain about the same.”

TABLE 7

(a) Numbers provided with dental care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	18	18	18	14
Children under five ...	23	17	17	17

TABLE 8

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :

	Scalings & gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	2	10	—	—	15	—	1	3	—
Children under five ...	—	9	—	—	10	—	—	—	—

TABLE 9

Maternity Beds

Year	Total No. of Births	Births in Maternity Homes or Hospitals	Percentage of Institutional Births
1950	1,121	652	58
1951	1,170	728	62
1952	1,141	678	60
1953	1,246	733	59
1954	1,228	750	61

The following is a record of admissions to Mother and Baby Homes during the year :—

Diocesan Home, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	9
Other Homes	...	...	...	...	2

Ophthalmic Work

The following table summarises the ophthalmic work undertaken :—

	Huntingdon	Old Fletton
Number of new cases	28	1
Number of old cases	60	3
Number of attendances	88	4
Total number of cases in which spectacles were prescribed	24	2

Orthopaedic

The following tables give particulars of cases dealt with both at the Surgeons Clinics and the Care and After-Care Centres during the year.

TABLE 10
ATTENDANCES AT SURGEONS' CLINICS, 1954

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>New cases seen</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					<i>Total</i>
			<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. & C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	
Huntingdon ...	22	154	34	460	121	21	20	656
Peterborough ...	11	11	4	68	7	9	1	89
TOTAL ...	33	165	38	528	128	30	21	745

TABLE 11
ATTENDANCES AT CARE AND AFTER-CARE CENTRES 1954

Clinic	No. of Clinics held	Attendances					
		S.E.	P.E.	M. & C.W.	T.B.	P.H.	Total
Huntingdon ...	11	32	224	—	—	—	256
Fletton ...	13	20	75	—	—	—	95
Ramsey ...	13	18	91	—	—	—	109
St. Ives ...	14	—	224	—	—	—	224
St. Neots ...	10	—	34	—	—	—	34
TOTAL ...	61	70	648	—	—	—	718
Home Visits by Sister		23	208	22	26	47	326

Note.—S.E.—Secondary Education; P.E.—Primary Education; M. & C.W.—Pre-School cases; T.B.—Tuberculosis cases; P.H.—Other Adults.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

The County Council became responsible for the local distribution of Welfare Foods on the 28th June, 1954, under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The general structure of the scheme for the distribution of Welfare Foods as developed by the Ministry of Food was continued, in that, the five main centres of distribution were maintained, but, in addition to the thirty-nine voluntary distribution points which existed under the Ministry of Food scheme at small shops, post offices, general stores, private individuals, etc., several additional voluntary points were established to meet the convenience of the beneficiaries.

As a result of working experience minor alterations in the days and hours on which these centres are open have been made.

The following statement gives the location and times of opening of the main centres of distribution as at 31st December, 1954.

Huntingdon — No. 6 Hut, Castle Hill House Grounds.

Monday 2—5 p.m.

Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m.

Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.

Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

St. Ives 20b, The Broadway.

Monday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.

Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.

Saturday—9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Centre, Station Approach.

Friday 2—4.30 p.m.

St. Neots 62, High Street.

Wednesday 2—4 p.m.

Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.

Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Ramsey**Health Clinic, Westfield.**

Monday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Friday 2—4.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Centre.

Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.

Old Fletton**Infant Welfare Centre, London Road.**

Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m.

Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.

Friday 2—4.30 p.m.

The following table shows the receipts and issues of Welfare Foods during the period 28th June to 31st December, 1954.

TABLE 12

Receipts				Issues			
N.D.M. tins	C.L.O. bottles	A & D tabs. pkts.	O.J. bottles	N.D.M. tins	C.L.O. bottles	A & D tabs. pkts.	O.J. bottles
21,714	5,696	1,253	21,531	18,975	13,754	947	18,361

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

(Sections 23 and 25)

The combined Midwifery and Home Nursing Service continued to operate as in former years.

37 Midwives notified their intention to practise midwifery in the County, of these 7 were employed in Institutions and 25 were District Nurse-Midwives employed by the County Service.

The County Service was one short of a full establishment at the commencement of the year and the vacancies increased to three early in the year when two nurses resigned to take up work elsewhere.

Appointments were, however, made and the three vacancies filled before July.

The system of relief, whereby one relief nurse covers the northern part and a second the southern part of the County, continued to work satisfactorily.

During the course of the year two members of the staff attended a Midwifery Post-Graduate Course and a similar number attended District Nurses Refresher Courses.

At the end of the year the staff position was as follows:—

- 1 Superintendent of District Nurses and Midwives.
- 19 District Nurse-Midwives.
- 4 Assistant Nurse-Midwives.
- 2 Relief District Nurse-Midwives.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurse-Midwives during the year.

TABLE 13

Number of domiciliary deliveries attended by Midwives during the year:—

(i) Doctor not booked				
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child	...	...	...	—
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child			...	34
(ii) Doctor booked—				
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	...	...	...	66
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child			...	304
Total				404

Number of domiciliary cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1951 by a Midwife—

(i) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
(ii) Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>65</u>

Number of attendances by Midwives during the year to domiciliary cases :—

(i) Doctor not booked	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1584
(ii) Doctor booked	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>7193</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>8777</u>

Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child	...	181
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	...	35

Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child	...	127
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	...	35

TABLE 14

Home Nursing.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurses during the year.

(1)	Medical (2)	Surgical (3)	Infectious Diseases (4)	Tuber- culosis (5)	Maternal Compli- cations (6)	Others (7)	Total (8)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year ...	836	463	—	6	26	26	1357	543	122	219
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year ...	19276	6237	—	140	445	2850	28948	15780	577	16628

HEALTH VISITING

(Section 24)

Health visiting throughout the County continued to be undertaken by members of the staff holding the combined appointment of Health Visitor—School Nurse.

Increased visits were made to expectant mothers, to children under 2 years of age and to the aged, particularly those aged persons who live alone. It is in the home where there is the necessary privacy that the Health Visitor undertakes individual teaching on matters appertaining to both physical and mental wellbeing and gives advice on many and varied problems. It is here in the home where the Health Visitor does her most valuable work.

The Health Visitors, as previously mentioned, attend the ante-natal clinics and undertake group instruction in mothercraft and other health subjects. An increasing amount of use is made of visual aids such as posters, baby clothing, flannelgraphs and film-strips.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by Health Visitors :—

TABLE 15

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year ...	5006
Expectant mothers :	
First visits	34
Total visits	53
Children under 1 year of age :	
First visits	1526
Total visits	8572
Children age 1 and under 2 years :	
Total visits	5128
Children age 2 but under 5 years :	
Total visits	7520
Tuberculosis Households :	
Total visits	21
Other cases :	
Total visits	469
Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors	3736
Total number of attendances made by Health Visitors at clinic sessions during the year	540

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(Section 26)

Vaccination

The figures here are on the upward trend, 572 primary vaccinations compared to 463 in 1953. The figure for 1954 is the highest figure since the National Health Service came into force in 1948.

During the year ended 31st December, 1954, the number of persons vaccinated was as follows:—

TABLE 16

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	470	17	25	24	36	572
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	1	4	49	54

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

TABLE 17

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
Primary Immunisation	339	395	73	27	26	142	37	1039
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	1	4	—	66	857	366	1294

The figures given in the above table show a marked increase over the figures for the previous year when the total numbers immunised were primary 503 and secondary or reinforcing 491.

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

TABLE 18

Age at 31/12/54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1950-1954	57	2,516	3,467	2,729	8,769
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	1,640	2,445	4,085

As will be seen from the above table a total of 12,854 children under 15 years in the County have been immunised, which is equivalent to 77.9 per cent. of the population under 15 years of age. These figures show an increase compared with last year's total number of children 12,335 giving a percentage of 76.24.

The increased response on the part of the public, although encouraging, does not permit of any complacency.

Several years have passed without a case of Diphtheria occurring in the County and to a great number of mothers the risk of infection appears to be very small.

The present generation of mothers are unable to appreciate fully the gravity of Diphtheria and many of the younger members of the medical and nursing profession have had little or no experience of this disease. Under such circumstances it is not difficult to imagine the havoc an undiagnosed case of Diphtheria would cause among non-protected individuals.

TABLE 19

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
<i>Primary Immunisation.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B. ...	30	35	7	6	1	16	5	100
Huntingdon R.D. ...	39	54	7	4	4	20	3	131
St. Ives M.B. ...	33	38	4	—	—	1	2	78
St. Ives R.D. ...	61	72	8	6	4	11	1	163
St. Neots U.D. ...	22	34	12	2	3	19	—	92
St. Neots R.D. ...	39	57	9	2	1	12	1	121
Old Fletton U.D. ...	43	37	4	4	4	14	9	115
Norman Cross R.D. ...	25	37	11	1	4	28	6	112
Ramsey U.D. ...	23	14	5	—	2	12	10	66
Godmanchester M.B. ...	24	17	6	2	3	9	—	61
Total for County ...	339	395	73	27	26	142	37	1039
<i>Secondary or Reinforcing Injection.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B. ...	—	—	1	—	7	109	34	151
Huntingdon R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	1	132	58	191
St. Ives M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	1	12	16	29
St. Ives R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	5	125	65	195
St. Neots U.D. ...	—	—	2	—	10	87	2	101
St. Neots R.D. ...	—	—	1	—	10	51	6	68
Old Fletton U.D. ...	—	1	—	—	13	84	27	125
Norman Cross R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	9	109	54	172
Ramsey U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	1	57	90	148
Godmanchester M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	9	91	14	114
Total for County ...	—	1	4	—	66	857	366	1294

TABLE 20

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the Districts in the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31/12/54 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1—4 1953—1950	5—9 1949—1945	10—14 1944—1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1950—1954					
Huntingdon M.B. ...	4	212	314	183	713
Huntingdon R.D. ...	12	355	444	393	1204
St. Ives M.B. ...	5	169	177	129	480
St. Ives R.D. ...	10	391	544	520	1465
St. Neots U.D. ...	3	191	262	117	573
St. Neots R.D. ...	4	338	308	228	878
Old Fletton U.D. ...	10	284	496	298	1088
Norman Cross R.D. ...	—	243	467	369	1079
Ramsey U.D. ...	4	207	269	381	861
Godmanchester M.B. ...	5	126	186	111	428
Total for County ...	57	2516	3467	2729	8769
B. 1949 or earlier					
Huntingdon M.B. ...	—	—	127	238	365
Huntingdon R.D. ...	—	—	243	342	585
St. Ives M.B. ...	—	—	83	154	237
St. Ives R.D. ...	—	—	340	364	704
St. Neots U.D. ...	—	—	136	235	371
St. Neots R.D. ...	—	—	204	262	466
Old Fletton U.D. ...	—	—	138	330	468
Norman Cross R.D. ...	—	—	141	262	403
Ramsey U.D. ...	—	—	155	139	294
Godmanchester M.B. ...	—	—	73	119	192
Total for County ...	—	—	1640	2445	4085

AMBULANCE

(Section 27)

The following information relates to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year 1954.

TABLE 21

Service					Vehicles	Journeys	Patients	Miles	
DIRECTLY PROVIDED—									
Ambulances :									
Huntingdon	...	...	...	5	2116	6889 (811)	93.349		
St. Neots	...	...	...	1	148	308 (98)	5.114		
Sitting Cars:									
Huntingdon	...	...	...	4	1745	7136 (113)	106.466		
AGENCY SERVICES—									
Ambulances	...	...	...	3)	1079	2162 180)	33.756		
Sitting Cars	...	...	...	3)					
SUPPLEMENTARY—									
Hospital Car Service	...				253	570 (1)	16.190		
Totals	...	.....			5341	17065(1203)	254.875		
(The figures in parenthesis indicate emergency calls)									

(The figures in parenthesis indicate emergency calls)

From the above statistics it is apparent that the demands on the County Ambulance Service have continued to increase. Both the total number of journeys and the total number of patients carried show a considerable increase as compared with the previous year, 580 in the case of the former and 1,983 in the case of the latter; the mileage however shows a very slight, almost negligible, decrease.

The ambulance service establishment of men and vehicles was not sufficient to meet the whole of the additional work and a good proportion of this was met by the Hospital Car Service. As a result, the total amount of work this supplementary service undertook during the year was almost treble the amount undertaken in 1953.

The continuing increase in the amount of traffic on the County roads has no doubt contributed to the greater number of emergency calls, an increase of some 142 calls as compared with the

corresponding figure for the previous year. This increasing demand for emergency assistance must eventually result in the redeployment of staff at present engaged on routine journeys. The equipment of all ambulances with wireless would undoubtedly be of great advantage.

During the year the organisation of the Ambulance Service remained unaltered and the establishment unchanged.

Transport

A new Ambulance/Sitting Car (Bedford 15 cwt. NEW 666) was brought into service in October to replace the Austin Welfarer (FEW 991) Sitting Car; due, however, to the condition of other vehicles, FEW 991 was retained in service as a spare vehicle.

The age and condition of all vehicles gives cause for concern and the higher running costs combined with increased maintenance charges have led the Committee to consider the possibility of purchasing a Diesel-engined ambulance; much of the fleet of vehicles is now passed economic running and the time has come when a more realistic replacement programme must be considered.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (Section 28)

Tuberculosis

Contact Examinations

The arrangements for the examination of contacts continued to work satisfactorily, a total of 267 contacts being examined at the Chest Clinics at Huntingdon and Peterborough.

Employment and Rehabilitation

Generally speaking, patients are advised by the Chest Physician if certain types of employment should be avoided. Contact is maintained with the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour as to suitable light employment in particular cases.

The arrangements for the admission of cases for rehabilitation to Papworth Village Settlement and to other Rehabilitation Units continued and at the end of the year 5 patients were maintained in such Units as compared with 4 cases at the end of 1953.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

This work is carried out on behalf of the Local Health Authority by the Chest Physicians at the Chest Clinics, and during the year a total of 62 cases received protection as compared with 20 in the previous year.

The following Table sets out the number of notifications received during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year and also gives details of the work carried out during the year.

TABLE 22

Notification received during 1954

Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Number on Register on 31st December, 1954

Respiratory				Other Forms			
Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total
170	101	15	286	18	26	29	73

Home Visits

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 928 Home Visits to tuberculosis cases during the year.

No. of New Contacts examined

					Huntingdon		Peterborough	
					M	F	M	F
Adults	...	...	...	...	25	36	38	51
Children	...	...	...	...	27	18	40	32
Totals					52	54	78	83

No. of Skin Tests performed and results

No. Positive	...	...	...	...	16	41	13	6
No. Negative	...	...	...	...	45	42	27	20

B.C.G. Vaccination

No. of persons vaccinated during the year	6	15	24	17
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

Rehabilitation

No. of persons undergoing rehabilitation at end of year	2	3	—	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---

Total No. of Tuberculosis cases at end of year

Working: Full-time	...	...	...	...	63	42	51	7
Part-time	...	...	...	...	2	7	—	—
Not working: Fit for work	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Unfit for work	...	...	...	...	41	17	38	27

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE **(Section 29)**

The Domestic Help Service, transferred from the Women's Voluntary Services to the County Health Department and re-organised in 1953, continued to function unchanged and in a satisfactory manner during the present year.

The number of cases assisted during the year shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year. The increase in the demand on the Service was largely attributable to a higher number of domiciliary confinements in which assistance was required.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year was as follows :—

TABLE 23

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	... ..	70
(b) Tuberculosis	... ..	6
(c) Chronic sick including aged and infirm	... ..	118
(d) Others	... ..	128

MENTAL HEALTH **(Section 51)**

Administration

The responsibility for dealing with all matters relating to Mental Health in the County is delegated to the Health Committee.

The following members of the staff are concerned in varying degree with duties connected with the Mental Health Service:—

County Medical Officer of Health.

Deputy Clerk of the County Council.

Three Assistant Medical Officers.

Duly Authorised Officer.

Deputy Duly Authorised Officer.

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives.

Mental Illness

Initial proceedings are carried out by the Duly Authorised Officer, or in his absence by the Deputy Duly Authorised Officer, who is employed on a part-time basis. As previously stated the majority of cases are referred by the medical practitioner, the remainder being referred by Health Visitors, the Welfare Department

and in a few instances by neighbours or the Police. Good relations continue to exist between the Medical Practitioner and the Duly Authorised Officers which ensures a smooth working service.

Admissions are made either to Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge, or to Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs. Cases referred during 1954 totalled 92 (41 males, 51 females) and were dealt with as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Summary Reception Orders	12	24
Voluntary Admissions	23	15
Section 20 Lunacy Act	6	12

Of those admitted under Section 20, fifteen were later made Voluntary patients, one a Certified patient and two were discharged.

The original arrangements for the care and after-care of the mentally ill was that this work would be undertaken by the Cambridge Regional Office of the National Association for Mental Health. Since the closure of the Cambridge Regional Office considerable difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a care and after-care service by reason of the fact that all the remaining members of the staff in the Mental Health Service are fully occupied with other duties. The importance of this preventive side of mental health work is, however, fully appreciated but little progress in the development of this work can be made until such time as a mental health service as envisaged in the Council's proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, is implemented in full.

The following summaries set out the work undertaken during the year.

TABLE 24

Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge

No. of Certified patients admitted	36
No. of Certified patients discharged	30
No. of Voluntary patients admitted	24
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	32
No. of patients admitted under Section 20	18

Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs.

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	14
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	14

Patients in Institutions on the 31st December, 1954

					Males	Females	Total
Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	61	84	145
Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Derby County Hospital, Mickleover	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Shenley Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Springfield Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cane Hill Hospital, Surrey	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
					73	97	170

Mental Deficiency

The arrangements for the ascertainment of mental defectives continued as in former years. The majority of new cases were reported by the Local Education Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

During 1954 the total number of persons ascertained as mental defectives was 18 (11 male, 7 female) of whom 14 were reported under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. In addition, notification was received of three cases, two of which after investigation were not regarded as defectives subject to be dealt with and one had not been confirmed by the end of the year.

Close co-operation was maintained with the Regional Hospital Board, who have been most helpful in providing accommodation in cases of extreme urgency or in cases in which temporary accommodation was required to alleviate home conditions during times of crisis.

Seven patients were admitted to Certified Institutions by Order, five to Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich, one to Riversfield Home, St. Neots, and one to the Fountain Hospital, London. Two Varying Orders were obtained in respect of patients under guardianship with the Guardianship Society, Brighton.

At the end of the year vacancies in Certified Institutions were awaited for 12 patients, 8 of whom were male and 4 female. In the case of 5 male and 3 female the admission to an institution was regarded as a matter of urgency. In addition to the cases already mentioned there were 4 male and 3 female patients on the waiting list for admission. The circumstances in these cases were somewhat precarious for although the present arrangements for their care and welfare are satisfactory, it is possible that the existing arrangements may break down at any time.

Training and instruction of patients in their homes continued to be undertaken by the Home Teacher, who in addition supervised those cases at home or in domiciliary employment whilst on Licence from Institutions. Regular visits were paid to all cases under Statutory Supervision.

The following table summarises the number of visits paid to these patients:—

Cases for training at home	...	...	...	...	555
Cases under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	443
Cases on Licence from Institutions	...	...	...	...	86

In addition seven cases were under Guardianship of Nominees of the Guardianship Society, Brighton, and one under Guardianship of this Authority.

Home Conditions Reports were submitted in respect of 25 patients in Institutions.

The following Tables give particulars of defectives on the Register on the 31st December, 1954.

TABLE 25

						During 1954			
						Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
1. <i>Particulars of cases reported during 1954.</i>									
(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with".									
Action taken on reports by—									
(i) Local Education Authorities on children:									
(1) While at school or liable to attend school						4	4	—	—
(2) On leaving special schools						—	—	1	—
(3) On leaving ordinary schools						4	—	1	—
(ii) Police or by Courts						—	—	—	—
(iii) Other sources						1	2	—	1
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground						—	—	2	—
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b)						1	—	—	—
Total number of cases reported during the year						10	6	4	1

TABLE 26

				During 1954				Total cases on Authority's Reg. as at 1.1.1955			
				Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2. <i>Disposal of cases.</i>											
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—											
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision											
				8	6	1	1	18	13	38	24
(ii) Placed under Guardianship											
				—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"											
				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals											
				1	—	1	—	11	2	28	26
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—											
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision											
				—	—	2	—	—	—	4	1
(ii) Action unnecessary											
				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 2 ...				9	6	4	1	29	15	72	57

TABLE 27

					Total cases on Authority's Reg. as at 1.1.1955			
					Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
3. <i>Classification of defectives in the Community on 1.1.55: (according to need at that date)</i>								
(a) Cases included in item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority—								
(1) In urgent need of hospital care—								
(i)	" Cot and Chair "	cases	...	...	—	1	1	—
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	...	1	2	2	—
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care—								
(i)	" Cot and Chair "	cases	...	...	1	—	—	—
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 3 (a)					5	4	3	—
(b) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b)(i) above, number considered suitable for—								
(i)	Occupation centre	...	...	...	2	3	14	6
(ii)	Industrial centre	...	...	...	4	1	6	5
(iii)	Home training	...	...	...	5	5	1	4
Total of Item 3 (b)					11	9	21	15
(c) Of the cases included in item 3 (b) number receiving training on 1.1.55—								
(i)	In occupation centre	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
(ii)	In industrial centre	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	At home	...	...	...	5	5	1	4
Total of Item 3 (c)					5	5	1	6

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Hospitals, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1954, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1954.

	Males	Females	Total
(a) Ceased to be under care	—	—	—
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	2	4	6
Total	2	4	6

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1954	Nil	
	Males	Females
(b) Number who have married during 1954 ...	Nil	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Incidence of Blindness

There were 180 registered blind persons (88 male and 92 female) in the County on the 31st December, 1954, compared with 162 at the end of the previous year. During 1954 the number of cases certified blind on Form B.D.8 was 41 (17 male and 24 female). Four blind persons (3 male and 1 female) were transferred into this County from other areas.

The number of deaths of blind persons recorded during the year was 24 (9 male and 15 female). 1 male and 2 female blind persons left this County during the year.

The following table shows the ages of blind persons on the register at the 31st December, 1954.

TABLE 28

0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	11—15	16—20	21—30	31—39	40—49	50—59	60—64	65—69	70 and over	Age not known	Total
1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (1)	1 (2)	2 (2)	4 (1)	6 (7)	4 (3)	15 (15)	13 (12)	25 (27)	109 (92)	— —	180 (162)

The number of cases in the County certified to be partially-sighted during the year was 13 (2 male and 11 female). The number of partially-sighted persons on the register at the end of the year was 33 (10 male and 23 female) compared with 27 (13 male and 14 female) at the end of 1953.

The age distribution of the partially-sighted persons is shown in the following table.

TABLE 29

0—1	2—4	5—15	16—20	21—49	50—64	65 & over	Total
—	—	4	1	4	4	20	33

In addition to those already registered as either Blind or Partially-Sighted, in some 30 cases contact was being maintained in case they should subsequently become eligible for certification under the Act.

The following table shows the follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

TABLE 30

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para 7 (c) of Form B.D. 8 recommends :—	CAUSE OF DISABILITY							
	<i>Cataract</i>		<i>Glaucoma</i>		<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>		<i>Others</i>	
	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S
(a) No Treatment ...	17	3	5	—	—	—	12	3
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	5	6	—	—	—	—	2	1
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	—

TABLE 31

Ophthalmia neonatorum

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year ... Nil
- (ii) Number of cases in which :—
- (a) Vision lost —
- (b) Vision impaired —
- (c) Treatment continuing at end of year —

TABLE 32

Employment of Blind Persons

(i) Homeworkers

1 Basket Maker.

1 Piano Tuner and Musician.

1 Weaver.

(ii) Workshop Employees

2 Basket Makers at Norwich Institution for the Blind.

(iii) Other Employment

1 Grocer

1 Physiotherapist

1 Storekeeper

4 Labourers.

At the end of the year 12 Blind Persons were usefully employed.

Home Teaching Service

Total number of visits made to Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	539
Number of other visits made in connection with blind welfare	72
Number of lessons given	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no great prevalence of the infectious and notifiable diseases in 1954. Only 693 cases of communicable disease were notified to the District Medical Officers of Health during the year as compared with 1,335 cases in 1953. The decrease is largely attributable to the fact that, following an epidemic of this disease in 1953, there were comparatively few cases of Measles in the present year.

Diphtheria

For the seventh year in succession there was no case of Diphtheria in the County. This is a highly satisfactory state, but in it exists the danger that parents will assume that Diphtheria is now a relic of the past and that the danger of infection no longer exists. Steps are taken from time to time to prevent this complacent outlook.

Poliomyelitis

It is gratifying to report that, in contrast to the high incidence of Poliomyelitis which occurred in 1953, only 3 cases were notified during the present year. One of these cases occurred during the month of January and was obviously a "carry over" of the 1953 epidemic, the remaining two cases occurred in July. Of these two latter cases, one occurred in a child of twenty-three months who was removed from a household in another County in which there was already a case of Poliomyelitis and on arrival in Huntingdonshire was already a sick child. Of the three cases one was of a non-paralytic type; the other two cases developed a mild temporary paresis.

Scarlet Fever

64 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, only one case less than in 1953. Within recent years this disease has assumed a very mild non-virulent form, so much so that it seems reasonable to assume that many cases because of the mildness escape detection.

TABLE 33
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY
for the year ended 31st December, 1954

District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Poliomylitis	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
URBAN:																				
Godmanchester	—	—	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	11	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	22
Huntingdon	—	—	5	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	35
Old Fletton	—	—	10	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	20	—	—	—	56
Ramsey	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	103	—	—	—	—	16	—	131
St. Neots	—	—	4	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	5	—	23
St. Ives	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	1	4	—	13
RURAL:																				
Huntingdon	—	—	11	—	2	5	—	1	1	—	8	64	36	2	—	1	—	3	—	134
Norman Cross	—	—	8	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	2	1	8	—	79
St. Ives	—	—	25	—	3	15	—	—	—	—	7	—	47	—	—	11	1	3	1	113
St. Neots	—	—	62	—	1	11	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	87
TOTAL ...	—	—	153	—	8	64	—	6	1	—	49	65	251	3	1	34	6	51	1	693

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

The exact number of epileptics in the County is still not accurately known, but four schoolchildren are known to suffer from epilepsy of whom three are in a special residential school. Of adults who suffer from this condition, at the end of the year six were resident in Part III Accommodation and three were maintained by the County Council in Epileptic Colonies in various parts of the country.

Six adults are known to the Authority to be spastic cases whilst five schoolchildren are on the Handicapped Pupils Register as suffering from this condition. Of the five schoolchildren, one was in a special residential school for physically handicapped pupils, two were awaiting admission to this type of Special School, one was attending the ordinary Primary School whilst the remaining child was receiving home tuition.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres

TABLE 34

	CAMBRIDGE		PETERBOROUGH		OTHER CENTRES	
	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953
Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from :—						
Syphilis ...	2	—	1	6	—	—
Gonorrhoea ...	4	2	8	10	—	—
Conditions other than Venereal	19	4	19	34	—	1
TOTAL ...	25	6	28	50	—	1

HOUSING

The figures given in the Table below have been obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health and show both the number of new houses erected and also the number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1954.

TABLE 35

<i>Sanitary District</i>	<i>New Houses by</i>		<i>By Adaptation</i>	
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>
URBAN DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon Borough ...	83	3	—	—
St. Ives Borough ...	56	5	—	—
Godmanchester Borough	—	—	—	—
Old Fletton	141	34	—	—
Ramsey	20	5	—	1
St. Neots	40	8	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon	55	9	—	—
Norman Cross	12	46	—	—
St. Ives	74	23	—	—
St. Neots	52	8	—	1
TOTALS	533	141	—	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is a summary of that part of the work under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, undertaken for the Health Committee by the Weights and Measures Officer and his staff.

During the year 373 samples were taken, 229 of which were sent to the Public Analyst, and 144 tested in the office laboratory.

28 samples were found to be unsatisfactory. This represents 7.5 per cent. of all samples taken, and is the same percentage as last year. The total number of unsatisfactory milk samples has decreased—there were 22 in 1953 but only 17 in 1954—but whereas in 1953 there were 5 samples of other articles unsatisfactory there were 10 in 1954.

Sampling has mainly been confined to articles for which a standard is prescribed or a “code of practice” exists.

Proceedings were instituted against three tradespeople during the year and in each case a conviction was secured. Details of these prosecutions will be found at the end of this section of the report together with a table giving statistical information of all samples taken.

Milk

222 samples were obtained. 17 samples were of inferior quality, and in every case but one the inferior samples were deficient in butter-fat. The butter-fat deficiencies were due either to seasonal variations or to the failure of the milk-roundsman to stir the milk when delivery was effected from bulk.

One sample contained added water. The adulteration was attributed to careless handling of the milk while cooling, and the producer-retailer was cautioned.

Milk emanating from pasteurising depots, and which now represents the bulk of the milk retailed in the county, was consistent in quality and never found to be below standard.

Milk from the producer-retailers varied considerably in quality and it was from this class of dairyman that the unsatisfactory samples were obtained.

Butter

19 samples of butter were procured. 15 of these were obtained in grocery shops or from market places and proved to be genuine.

3 informal samples of bread and butter or roll and butter were taken at cafes, and it was found in two instances that margarine was either used or mixed with butter on the bread.

A formal sample from a cafe offering bread and butter showed that the "butter" was margarine. The cafe proprietor was prosecuted and a conviction was obtained.

Sausages and Sausage Meat

In the last quarter of the year 3 samples of Pork Sausages were found to be deficient in meat. In one case the deficiency

was as much as 18 per cent. No proceedings were instituted against the butchers retailing these sausages, but cautions were issued.

There is at present no legal standard for sausages or sausage meat. The standard prescribed during the war and enforced in the post-war years was rescinded in 1953. Where a sample contains less meat than a percentage which the Public Analyst considers, in his opinion, to be requisite for a sausage the sample is declared to be "not genuine".

During 1954 the meat content of Pork sausages sampled in the county varied from 53.4 per cent. to 92 per cent.

The average meat content of pork and beef sausages was 73 per cent. and 54.5 per cent. respectively. The latest figures for the national average meat content of pork and beef sausages (given in reply to a question in the House of Commons on January 27th, 1955) was 68 per cent. and 63 per cent. respectively.

Sugar Confectionery

A "Code of Practice" exists amongst the manufacturers of sugar confectionery, that the standard for the minimum butter content of sweets, the description of which includes the word "butter", is now 4 per cent.

Two samples of "Butter-drops" contained 3.5 per cent. of butter. Investigation showed that the manufacturer was using a mixture of butter and cocoa-butter to the total amount of 4 per cent. and this latter ingredient, being more expensive than butter, resulted in no financial gain. The manufacturer was cautioned.

Thirteen samples of Butter-sweets from other manufacturers were analysed and found to satisfy the customary standard indicated above.

Vinegar

Two shopkeepers were found to be selling as vinegar, an artificial product made from diluted, flavoured and coloured acetic acid. Vinegar should be a product of the acetous fermentation of wine or malt and in this country the usual product is Malt Vinegar.

The shopkeepers were prosecuted and convicted.

Seven other samples of vinegar were analysed and found to be genuine.

Orange Drinks

During the year under review, it has been the growing practice of retailers of milk to become retailers of Orange Drinks which can be delivered with the milk and are pre-packed in one-third pint bottles. In most cases these Orange Drinks are described as such on the bottles, but in one instance, where a sample was taken and the bottle was unmarked, the milk-roundsman described the product as "Orange Juice". Analysis showed that the sample contained not more than 50 per cent. orange juice and should have been described as "Orange Drink".

In this case the dairyman was asked to make it clear to his roundsman that "Orange Drink" was not "Orange Juice" and should not be described as such, but it is believed that it has become the custom for these "Orange Drinks" to be verbally referred to as "Orange Juice" and there is a possibility that the public is being misled by the frequent use of this verbal description in spite of the fact that the true name is usually marked on the bottle.

General

While inspecting shops under the provisions of the Weights and Measures Acts, Inspectors are continually watchful for indications of the sale of spurious articles, and sampling under the Food and Drugs Act follows where this possibility exists. In nearly every case the unsatisfactory samples, other than milk, have been found in this manner. The increase this year in the number of these unsatisfactory samples is not attributed to an increase in undesirable practices by the trades-people.

TABLE 36
DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Name or description of article	Formal		Informal		Total
	Gen.	Not Gen.	Gen.	Not Gen.	
Milk	196	17	9	—	222
Butter	13	1	3	2	19
Cream	3	—	1	—	4
Cordials and Soft Drinks ...	6	1	1	—	8
Coffee and Coffee and Chicory Mixtures	4	—	—	—	4
Fish and Meat Pastes	9	—	1	—	10
Ice Cream	7	—	—	—	7
Lard	3	—	2	—	5
Margarine and Margarine and Butter Mixtures ...	4	—	5	—	9
Marzipan	1	—	2	—	3
Preserves	10	—	—	—	10
Sausages	15	3	1	—	19
Sugar Confectionery	12	1	4	1	18
Vinegar	6	2	1	—	9
Wines and Spirits	4	—	1	—	5
Other Articles	16	—	5	—	21
Totals	309	25	36	3	373

TABLE 37
DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS

Trade	Nature of Offence	Act and Section	Result
Grocer	Selling Vinegar not of substance demanded	Sec. 3 (1) Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Conditional dis- charge on pay- ment of £1/5/0 costs
Grocer	Selling Vinegar not of substance demanded	Sec. 3 (1) Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Convicted. Fine £1. Costs £1/1/0.
Cafe	Selling Bread and Butter not of substance de- manded	Sec. 3 (1) Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Convicted. Fine £5. Costs £1/5/0.

The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and the Food and Drugs Act by Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S.

Monthly samples of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Pasteurised milk have been taken from the Plants and submitted for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests. All samples complied with the standards laid down by the Ministry of Food except that in one case the Methylene Blue test was void. A further test proved to be satisfactory. A thorough inspection of the Pasteurising Plant, the reception tanks, churn washing and bottle washing, also the bottling of milk, has been regularly made, and conditions have been found to be perfectly clean and in order.

119 samples of Pasteurised and 1 of Tuberculin Tested milk have been taken from Schools in the County and submitted to the Pathological Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, for Bacteriological examination. 1 of these samples failed to comply with the required standard and 18 failed in the Methylene Blue Test. Failure was accounted for by the temperature exceeding 65° F.

Schools have also been visited in order to inspect the preparation and service of meals, also the cleanliness of food containers, utensils and washing-up facilities. In all Schools the arrangements for meals appeared to be working satisfactorily. Detergents as advised by the Ministry are being used in every case. Those responsible for the preparation and service of meals are very clean and the Service is carried out in a highly satisfactory manner.

28 Bulk samples of non-designated milk and 1 of Tuberculin Tested milk have been taken from dairy premises in the County for Biological Test. In one test bacteria were found similar to Tubercle Bacilli and the Ministry of Agriculture were asked to investigate, and in another Acid Fast Bacilli were discovered and reported to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Inspection of Shops, which are registered by the County Council for the storage and sale of Ice-cream, have been carried out. Advice has been given regarding building and installation of refrigerators and during the year 7 new registrations have been granted.

Regular inspections have been carried out of Shops, Food Stores, Cafes and Restaurants. Conditions with regard to the handling and wrapping of food are for the most part good, but in

some cases warnings have been given as to the wrapping and covering of food. The condition of premises and utensils have been found to be clean and tidy.

Home-Killed Meat, Canned Meats and other Foods, as under-mentioned, have been found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption:—

118	containers	Meat	} Various kinds and sizes
106	containers	Vegetables	
31	containers	Fish	
46	containers	Soup	
453	containers	Fruit	
257	containers	Milk	
68	containers	Meat, Sausages, Soup	
4	tins	Pork Sausages	
3	tins and 4 ozs.	Sausages	
116½	lbs. and 6 boxes	Cheese	
13	containers	Sundry Foods—Fruit Drink, Coffee, Cereals	
759	lbs.	Home-Killed Meat	
220	lbs.	Fruit	
25¼	lbs.	Raisins	
3	containers	Frozen Eggs (58 lbs.)	
12	pkts.	Cake Mixture and 1½ lbs. Cake	
3	bottles	Orange Squash	
1	jar	Calves Foot Jelly	
229	pkts.	Biscuits (cream-filled)	
1	jar	Sandwich Spread	

St. Ives Slaughter House

The number of animals killed at St. Ives Abattoir during the year was 7,527, of which 55 whole carcasses (weight 17,072 lbs.) were condemned as unfit for human food. The weight of the parts of carcasses and organs condemned was 9,531 lbs.

The following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year:—

TABLE 38

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1038	189	2979	3321
Number inspected	1038	189	2979	3321
(All diseases except tuberculosis):				
Whole carcasses condemned	10	4	3	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	149	—	54	217
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15.3%	2.1%	1.9%	7.1%
(Tuberculosis only):				
Whole carcasses condemned	12	—	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	73	—	—	59
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.0%	—	—	2.0%

TABLE 39

Weights of Condemned Meat

	Number killed	Number of Whole carcasses	Condemnations		Total Weight lb.
			Weight of whole carcasses lb.	Weight of Parts and Organs lb.	
Cattle	1038	22	13623	6795	20418
Calves	189	4	250	21	271
Sheep and Lambs	2979	3	249	193	442
Pigs	3321	26	2950	2522	5472
Total	7527	55	17072	9531	26603

Total animals killed: 7,527.

Total meat condemned: 11 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrts. 3 lbs.

